

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY REDBOURN

**MINUTES OF THE ZOOM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Present The Vicar Celia Forbes Stephen Gell Ailsa Hulme Jim May
Keith McAdam David Mitchell Alan Simkins Paul Vernon Mike Wood

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.20 pm

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 6th January 2021

The minutes were agreed as drawn.

2) Matters Arising

Christmas Hampers - There is a surplus of funds left, some of which we are required to use before the end of March. The Vicar and Deni Ennals are aware that there are still families who need support, and this will enable us to help them.

3) Worship

We are still in a period of lockdown, awaiting the government's decisions as to the immediate future. Our Church is open daily for prayer and restricted services. The established pattern of services continues with around 15 – 20 people attending each service. Apparently, St Mary's with Kilmington and Ayot, are the only churches in the Deanery which are open. Once vaccinations have been offered to more people, it is felt that numbers attending worship may increase. The Vicar has made it known to both Flamstead and Markyate that their congregations will be welcome to join us. The Covid Recovery Group is expected to issue further guidelines in the next few weeks. Filming continues each week so that the service can be available online for those unable to attend in person. Sue May is very kindly co-ordinating the volunteers for recording readings etc.

Lent - will of course be followed, although not to our usual busy format. The Methodist Minister, Stuart Dyer, who is the new chairman of Churches Together, and Will will be offering Thursday evening Zoom discussions following the publication - Holy Habits. Those wishing to take part will have to register and will then be informed of the Zoom joining details. The reflections will not be available other than by this method.

Easter - We plan to hold the Good Friday Walk of Witness as this can be socially distanced.

Funeral - Janet Godly, a very loyal member of our congregation, died recently. Her funeral will be held at 1 pm on the 22nd February, followed by burial in the churchyard. Janet will be sorely missed by us all at St Mary's, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

APCM – Providing the weather obliges, we hope that we will be able to hold the APCM in the churchyard after the 9.30 am morning service on Sunday 25th April, much as we did the last APCM at the end of September. If the weather is not suitable, then the meeting will be held by Zoom the same morning.

4) Safeguarding

Jan Lang had provided a report which was circulated prior to the meeting. It will be necessary for the training to be updated for all as the three year period covered is nearly complete.

There have been no safeguarding incidents or concerns to report.

5) Treasurer's Report

Mike Wood had circulated a report prior to the meeting. All is on course to be ready for the APCM at the end of April. It will be necessary for the accounts for last year to be approved by the PCC, hopefully at the March PCC meeting.

The remaining balance of the hamper money will be put into a designated protected fund.

6) Churchwardens' Report

The oak tree is in the process of being cut back to a safe level. The owner of the bungalow next to the tree is contributing an amount to the felling costs, which he will gift aid and we will pay for the rest.

The fire extinguishers have been serviced and David Mitchell has signed a contract for the two central heating boilers to be serviced at the end of the winter. Jan Nelder has sorted the problem with the water pressure in the church office, and he will paint the exterior woodwork when the weather has improved. There is still some work to be done to the Vicarage Cottage. The Agent, Nick Munns, will be asked to inspect the inside of the property and report back to us with photos etc, and we will get a definite date booked for a contractor to start the work needed on re-pointing the chimney.

7) Stewardship

Nothing to report.

8) Youth Work & Ministry to Young People

Ailsa Hulme reported verbally, and was very heartened by the response to the Forest Tots offerings in the Churchyard. These have been greatly anticipated each week by parents and young children alike. There has been a constant number of visitors to the churchyard with young children to participate in the challenges, and to see the excellent models made by Virginia Corbett. Engagement and ministry with the older children has not been possible – most are 'zoomed out' after doing their school work online every day.

A trip to Fellowship Afloat has been tentatively booked for September. The Summer Holiday Club cannot be launched with any certainty in the current crisis and we await further sense on whether this will be possible this year. If the Holiday Club should go ahead, it could be very difficult to find sufficient helpers.

9) Churchyard Report

A full report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The churchyard is proving to be a helpful resource in the current crisis. The payback team will not be able to resume work until the lockdown ends. A summer mowing rota is being prepared. The 'rose-bed teams' have pruned and weeded, as it is possible to do this well distanced from one another.

It is with great sadness that we have learned that Chris and Margot Wright are moving shortly to Lincolnshire. Chris has been a real stalwart of the Churchyard Team, and will be greatly missed.

10) Charitable Finance Committee

The Committee is planning to stream a live Zoom Variety Concert on the 20th March. The technical side is well in hand and a varied programme is being arranged. We hope that some of the young people will be able to take part. It is hoped that those who wish to view the concert will make a donation to the CFC. Covid restrictions lifted, it is hoped to hold an arts festival later in the year.

11) Any Other Business

Keith McAdam brought to our notice an excellent presentation given by Justin Welby to the Royal Society of Medicine, emphasising the need to look forward to the future. Keith will make enquiries as to whether this is available to view online.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.50 pm.

Next Meetings

Wednesday 17th March 2021 Full PCC - Annual Accounts and preparations for APCM

Sunday 25th April 2021 Meeting of Parishioners and APCM